
If you believe you are eligible to vote and encounter difficulty registering, please contact the Louisiana Elections Division, at:

P.O. Box 14179
Baton Rouge, LA 70898
(225) 925-7885 (voice)
(225) 925-4348 (fax)
(800) 825-3805 (toll-free)

or:

P.O. Box 94125
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9125
(225) 342-4970 (voice)
www.laelections.org

If the Louisiana Elections Division cannot help you, or to report a problem, contact:

United States Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division
Post Office Box 66128
Washington, D.C. 20035
(202) 307-2767 (voice)
(800) 253-3931 (toll free)
(202) 307-3961 (fax)
www.usdoj.gov/crt

This pamphlet is provided for informational purposes only, as an aid to further inquiry. The laws in many states are revised frequently, and may have changed since this pamphlet was issued. It is your responsibility to determine whether you are lawfully eligible to vote, and criminal penalties can result from voting when ineligible or making false statements on a registration form.

Issued December, 2000

U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division



Restoring Your Right to Vote



LOUISIANA

The right to vote is an important civil right in a democracy as well as a civic responsibility, and yet many persons who have been convicted of a crime do not know whether they are eligible to vote. For both federal and state elections, the right to vote is controlled by the law of the state in which you live. Some states restrict the right to vote for persons who have been convicted of a crime. This pamphlet is intended to help you determine whether you are eligible to vote in the state in which you live, and if so, what steps you must take to be permitted to vote.

What law governs whether my felony conviction limits my right to vote?

The impact of a criminal conviction on the right to vote varies widely from state to state. Whether you can vote after being convicted of a crime is determined by the state in which you live, not the state in which you were convicted.

Can I vote while I am incarcerated in Louisiana?

You cannot vote in Louisiana elections while you are incarcerated as a result of a felony conviction. If you are a resident of another state who is temporarily incarcerated in Louisiana, you may be able to vote an absentee ballot for your home state. Consult the law of your home state regarding both criminal convictions and absentee ballots to see if this is a possibility.

I have been released from incarceration. How do I restore my right to vote?

In Louisiana, your right to vote is automatically restored upon final discharge from all periods of probation, parole and imprisonment.

What if my conviction was for a federal crime?

If you are a resident of Louisiana, the same rules apply whether you were convicted of a federal or state crime.

What if I was convicted in another state?

These rules apply for Louisiana voters even if the conviction occurred in another state.

What happens if I move to another state?

If you move to another state, your right to vote will be controlled by the laws of that state.

What are Louisiana's voter registration requirements?

To register to vote in Louisiana, you must:

- be a U.S. citizen
- be at least 17 years old, and turn 18 prior to the next election
- not currently be imprisoned, on probation, or on parole for conviction of a felony
- not be under a judgment of mental incompetence
- reside in the state and parish in which you seek to register

In addition, Louisiana law requires a picture identification card to vote at the polls. This can include a Louisiana driver's license, a Louisiana Special ID card, or other generally recognized identification card. If you do not have a picture ID card, you may sign an affidavit which will be attached to the precinct register, and you will be required to answer identifying questions by the Commissioner at the polling place.

When do I need to register to vote?

Louisiana statutes require you to be registered 30 days prior to an election to be eligible to vote in that particular election.

Where do I go to register?

Registration is available at many places in Louisiana, including:

- Registrar of Voters office
- Department of Motor Vehicle offices
- Department of Social Services offices
- WIC offices, Food Stamp offices, Medicaid offices
- Armed Forces Recruitment offices
- Many other public buildings